



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT
Hollister Field Office
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STATUS OF MINERAL ENTRY AND CCMA CLOSURE ORDER

- BLM ordered the temporary emergency closure of 31,000 acres of public lands in Clear Creek Management Area on May 1, 2008, based on the results of the Environmental Protection Agency risk assessment on health risk from asbestos. Using activity-based air sampling methods, the EPA concluded that visiting CCMA more than once per year can put adults and children above EPA's acceptable excess lifetime cancer risk range, adding that children may be at greater risk because of their life expectancy.
- All public access and motorized vehicle travel within the Serpentine ACEC is allowed only by written authorization of the Hollister Field Manager. Violations of the closure order are subject to fines not to exceed \$1,000 and imprisonment not to exceed one year, 43 CFR 8360.0-7.
- The closure remains in effect while BLM prepares a Resource Management Plan to guide the long-term management of the area. Public meetings will be held on the draft RMP this fall.
- On Sept. 1, 2009, the Interior Board of Land Appeals ruled that the temporary emergency closure did not segregate lands from mineral entry.
- BLM is preparing a Federal Register Notice to segregate the area from mineral entry while the RMP is prepared.
- While the public lands are not segregated from mineral entry, the lands are closed to public use under the May 1, 2008 temporary closure order. Casual use as defined under 43 Code of Federal Regulations 3809 on existing mining claims is subject to regulations under 43 CFR 3809.5 (1) and (2).

As used in this subpart, the term "casual use" means activities ordinarily resulting in no or negligible disturbance of the public lands or resources. **Casual use operations must comply with the regulations governing such use (part 8340 of this title), including off-road vehicle use designations, and the terms of temporary closures ordered by BLM.**

- For more information on how to file a mining claim on BLM public lands, visit: <http://www.blm.gov/ca/st/en/info/iac/faqmc.html> or contact the Hollister Field Office at (831) 630-5000.